



“SCOOP”

ARKANSAS FARM SERVICE AGENCY -- STATE OFFICE

Date: May, 2004

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Sign-Up Ends *June 1, 2004*

Sign-up to participate in the 2004 Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) Program ends June 1, 2004. The CCC-509 must be submitted by June 1, 2004. CCC-509's with signatures obtained after June 1, but before September 30, 2004, will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a late-filed sign-up fee of \$100. All supporting documentation, such as CCC-502, AD-1026, and CCC-526, must be submitted before payments can be issued. Annual acreage reports indicating uses of all cropland on a farm must be filed by the applicable established reporting dates. Acreage reports filed after the applicable final reporting date may be accepted if all requirements are met and a late-filed fee is paid.

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) Base Adjustments

DCP base acres are carried at the tract level and summarized as a total at the farm level. Redistribution of base acres to other tracts on the same farm is allowed if all owners agree in writing and complete form CCC-517, Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) Tract Redistribution Form. Limitations are applicable, but interested owners or their authorized representative can obtain additional details at their local FSA office.

Protection of Base Acreage

All base acreage shall be protected from erosion, including providing sufficient cover. For a list of approved covers and practices, contact your local FSA Office.

Expiring of Voluntarily Terminating Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Contract Acres Could Increase Your Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) Payments

Farms with CRP contracts that have or will expire or be voluntarily terminated on or after May 13, 2002, and before October 1, 2007 may have acreage eligible to be enrolled in the DCP Program. Throughout different farm bills reduction of base and or Production Flexibility (PFC) acres was required in some situations upon enrollment into the CRP Program. New procedure allows for restoration of these acres as base acres for the DCP Program. Producers with acreage coming out of the CRP program should visit their local FSA Office to determine if these new rules apply. Farms meeting the criteria must have the restored acres enrolled into DCP by June 1 of the fiscal year the CRP contract acres expire or terminate. Enrollment after June 1 through September 30 of the fiscal year is allowed with the late payment fee of \$100.00 per farm.

Acreage Reporting Deadline for Fall-Seeded Crops – *May 15, 2004*

May 15, 2004, is the deadline to report fall-seeded crops to your local FSA Office.

New Prevented Planted Provisions

Producers should report prevented planted acreage to your local FSA Office when the crop acreage is not planted due to disaster-related conditions. To be considered timely filed, prevented planted acres should be reported no later than **15** calendar days after the **final planting date** established by Federal Crop Insurance. County Committee review and action is required to receive history credit in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

New Failed Acreage Provisions

Producers should report failed crop acres to your local FSA Office when the crop is failed due to disaster-related conditions. To be timely filed, acreage reports for failed acreage shall be filed **before** the crop is **destroyed**. County Committee review and action is required to receive history credit in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

Federal Crop Insurance Program Integrity

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 requires the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to work together to improve program compliance and integrity of the Federal Crop Insurance Program.

- FSA will be assisting RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season
- FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program to RMA
- Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local FSA County
- FSA will assist RMA with auditing claims

USDA Sets Date for Soybean Request for Referendum

USDA announced that it will offer soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act.

The request for referendum will be conducted at USDA's County Farm Service Agency Offices. To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2003. Only those producers who desire a referendum on the order will participate.

Beginning May 3, 2004, and continuing through May 28, 2004, producers may obtain a form to request a referendum from County FSA Offices either in person or by sending a request by mail or facsimile. Forms may also be obtained from: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mpb/rp-soy.htm>. Individual producers and other producer entities may request a referendum at the County FSA Office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For the producers not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to request a referendum will be provided at the County FSA Office where the producer owns or rents land. Mail in requests must be postmarked by May 28, 2004, and received in the County FSA Office by June 7, 2004. All other requests by facsimile or in person, must be received in the County FSA Office by May 28, 2004.

Report Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Acreage and Losses Timely

Acreage and shares of NAP covered crops **must** be timely reported to the local FSA Office.

Crops planted after the established final planting dates are not eligible for coverage.

Measurement services are available if needed. If a natural disaster strikes your covered crop, you **must timely** notify your local FSA office by completing a Notice of Loss within 15 calendar days of the date of:

- the natural disaster occurrence;
- the final planting, if your planting was prevented by a natural disaster;
- the date damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent to you; or
- the normal harvest date.

Final Noninsured Crop Reporting Date for Specific Crops

The final acreage reporting date for 2004 crop broccoli, cabbage, carrots, sweet corn, all types of greens, lettuce, potatoes, strawberries, and sweet potatoes is May 15, 2004. This reporting date is applicable to the identified crops, if producers have purchased NAP coverage on these crops.

Program Deadlines

Acreage reporting of fall-seeded crops	May 15, 2004
Final reporting date for NAP crops of broccoli, cabbage, carrots, sweet corn, all types of greens, lettuce, potatoes, strawberries, and sweet potatoes	May 15, 2004
Boll Weevil Eradication Program Intended Acres; pay half of Assessment Fee	May 31, 2004
Final loan and LDP availability date for 2003 crops of corn, grain sorghum, mustard seed, safflower seed, soybeans, sunflower seed, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, rice, and upland cotton.	May 31, 2004
2004 DCP Sign-up Deadline	June 1, 2004
DCP Late-Filed Sign-up \$100.00	June 1 – September 30, 2004
Acreage reporting Deadline for Spring-Seeded Crops	July 15, 2004
Boll Weevil Eradication Program Certified Acres; pay balance of assessment fee	July 15, 2004
Reporting Changes in Farm Operation (such as Succession-in-Interest)	September 30, 2004

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-94101 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

LEN E BLAYLOCK JR, State Executive Director
MICHAEL L. DUNAWAY, Administrative Officer
DAVD M. NIX, Executive Staff Assistant
Telephone (501) 301-3000

SHARON SCHAFER, Chief, Prod Adj/Compliance
CLAYTON PARR, Chief, Conservation
TONY FRANCO, Chief, Price Support
Ron Phillips, Acting Chief, Farm Loans